

  
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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March 29, 2005

Representative Gil Gutknecht  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gutknecht:

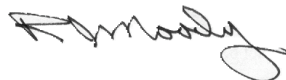
On behalf of the National Education Association's (NEA) 2.7 million members, we would like to offer our support for the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act (H.R. 328). We believe this important legislation will help address the escalating costs of prescription drugs.

As you know, current federal law prohibits consumers from taking advantage of the global marketplace to purchase affordable prescription drugs. In fact, American consumers are charged the highest prices in the world for the same medicines that are available in other major industrialized nations at a fraction of the cost. As a result, millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities, many of them retired educators living on fixed incomes, face escalating medication costs and too often must pay for medication at the expense of food or other necessities.

By allowing consumers to import FDA-approved medicines from Canada and other industrialized nations, your legislation would help address this unacceptable situation. We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,  


Diane Shust  
Director of Government Relations



Randall Moody  
Manager of Federal Policy and Politics